

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 37

Fall Update # 6, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Fall Season Assessment

The projected 2013 fall chum salmon run size based on inseason assessment ranges between 900,000 and 1,000,000 fish. Six pulses of fall chum salmon have entered Yukon River. The fifth and largest pulse entered Yukon River over five days (August 16 through August 20) and was estimated to be over 250,000 in size. No additional pulses of fall chum salmon have been detected by the Lower Yukon River test fisheries since the end of August.

Coho salmon have entered Yukon River in low numbers and passage past Pilot Station sonar has remained below average the entire season. The coho salmon run past Pilot Station sonar reached the historical third quarter-point on August 30 and is currently tracking to be the second lowest passage on record.

Lower Yukon River Cooperative Drift Test Fishing – YDFDA, ADF&G

The cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon through September 2 was 2,440.46, which is above the historical median of 1,199.70 for that date. The cumulative CPUE through September 2 for coho salmon was 300.40, which is below the historical median of 358.13 for that date. ADF&G ceased conducting the test fish drifts after August 28 however, YDFDA is continuing the project through September 20.

Pilot Station Sonar Project - ADF&G

The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 2 is approximately 694,800 fish, which is above the median passage of 601,163 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon passage through September 2 is approximately 81,329 fish, which is below the median passage of 123,911 fish for that date.

Rapids Test Fish Wheel Project - Zuray

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE through September 2 is approximately 11,756 fish, which is below the historical median of 14,332 fish for that date. The cumulative based on the adjusted water level near the historical median for that date.

Chandalar Sonar Project - USFWS

The cumulative passage attributed to fall chum salmon through September 2 is approximately 44,680 fish, which is above the historical median of 47,688 fish for that date. The first quarter point is September 2 at this site based on average timing.

Eagle Sonar Project - ADF&G

The cumulative passage attributed to fall chum salmon from August 19 through September 2 is 7,221 fish, which is above the average of 5,289 fish for that date.

Manley Test Fish Wheel-ADF&G

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE through September 2 is approximately 2,376 fish, which is below the historical average of 3,016 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE through September 2 is approximately 248 fish, which is above the historical average of 99 fish for that date.

Stock Composition

Fall chum salmon genetic samples obtained from the Pilot Station sonar test fish program between August 17 and August 22 indicated that stocks represent approximately 38%, 22%, and 39% for Tanana, Border/US (Chandalar/Sheenjek), and Canada respectively. Summer chum salmon made up approximately 1% of the fish sampled during that time period.

Fall Season Management

In accordance with the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, a total run ranging from 900,000 to 1,000,000 fish is adequate for escapement needs, full subsistence opportunity, and has a surplus available for other uses. Subsistence fishing is now on the full regulatory schedules in the Yukon River drainage (see subsistence schedule below).

The fall chum salmon commercial fishing season in Districts 1 and 2 closed by regulation after August 31. A coho salmon directed commercial fishery can be prosecuted in Districts 1 and 2 through September 10 if inseason run assessment indicates there is a surplus available for harvest. At this time the coho salmon run appears to be well below average with passage past Pilot Station tracking to be the second lowest on record. Assessment of the coho salmon run is ongoing and the department will consider providing coho salmon directed commercial openings in Districts 1 and 2 if warranted.

Fall Commercial Salmon Fishing

Through September 2, eleven fall commercial fishing periods have been announced in District Y-1 and eleven periods in District Y-2. Four commercial periods have been scheduled in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C. Six commercial fishing periods have been scheduled in District 6.

Preliminary harvest information for District Y-1:

Period #11: District Y-1 Set Net Only Area, 6 hours (5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. August 29), remainder of District Y-1, 6 hours (1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. August 29). Preliminary verbals indicate a harvest of 2,992 fall chum salmon and 2,113 coho salmon.

The cumulative harvest for Y-1 through September 2 is 106,442 fall chum and 27,269 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 14 fish.

Preliminary harvest information for District Y-2:

Period #11: District Y-2, 5 hours (2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. August 31). Preliminary verbals indicate a harvest of 2,431 fall chum salmon and 1,887 coho salmon.

The cumulative harvest for Y-2 through September 2 is 106,367 fall chum and 31,380 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 29 fish.

Preliminary harvest information for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C:

Period #4: Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, 5-day period (6:00 p.m. Tuesday September 3 until 6:00 p.m. Sunday September 8). There are currently no buyers present in these subdistricts.

The cumulative harvest for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C through September 2 is 1,041 fall chum salmon.

Preliminary harvest information for District 6:

Period #6: District 6, 42 hour period (6:00 p.m. Monday September 2 until 12:00 noon September 4). Currently there is no harvest to report.

The cumulative harvest for District 6 through September 1 is 583 fall chum and 8 coho salmon.

Processors, catcher-sellers, or direct marketers should notify the department of their intent to operate in any of the districts and subdistricts to request an opening by contacting the Fairbanks office at (907) 459-7274.

Subsistence Salmon Fishing

For the current subsistence schedule please call **(toll free): 1-866-479-7387 or in Fairbanks call (907) 459-7387**. The current subsistence fishing schedules are as follows:

Coastal District: The Coastal District is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Districts 1, 2, 3: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

The Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk. Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A is currently open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays. Use of drift gillnets to harvest fall chum salmon is allowed in that portion of Subdistrict 4-A from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point during open subsistence fishing periods.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby. Subsistence salmon fishing is open 5 days per week from 6:00 p.m. Sundays to 6:00 p.m. Fridays.

In District 4, fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing in the Koyukuk River is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C (from Illinois Creek upstream to regulatory markers 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Tanana, Rampart and the Haul Road Bridge area. Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C are open 5 days per week for subsistence salmon fishing. The subsistence salmon fishing schedule will be from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Subdistrict 5-D (from an ADF&G regulatory marker 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream on the Yukon River to U.S./Canada Border and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, and Eagle. Subsistence salmon fishing is open 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less and all salmon may be kept when caught in fish wheels.

Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the regulatory marker at the mouth of Wood River): This area includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana. Subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 pm Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 pm Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays.

Old Minto Area (upstream of Tolovana River mouth to upstream of Totchaket Slough see regulations for area): This area includes the community of Old Minto. Subsistence fishing for salmon is open for one five day fishing period per week from 6:00pm Fridays until 6:00pm Wednesdays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 6-C (from regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River): This area includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha. Personal Use salmon fishing in Subdistrict 6-C is open from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays. Fisherman may use a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387. The Emmonak ADF&G office and LYTF recording line are now closed for the season. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks office at 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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